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Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Letter dated 6 June 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On 8 May 2001, a letter from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations was circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 156 and 164, and as a document of the Security Council.

I should like to draw your attention to certain details of this letter, especially since the Permanent Representative of Turkey ventured to refer to my country in it in a very unambiguous context inadmissible within the walls of the United Nations.

In the letter of the Permanent Representative of Turkey, an attempt is made to link official Yerevan to certain individual acts of desperation that took place from 1973 to 1981 and were aimed at drawing the attention of the world community to the Turkish Governments denial of the fact of the Genocide of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire from 1915 to 1923. The complete absurdity of any link between Armenia and these acts lies in the fact that, during this period, Armenia, as a part of the Soviet Union, was deprived of independent statehood and could not in any way have had any connection to the aforementioned events or have influenced them in any manner.

Since it seems entirely unlikely that the Permanent Representative of Turkey is unfamiliar with these historical facts, it is abundantly clear that this is a deliberate falsification and juggling of the historical and political realities. Following the logic of the Permanent Representative of Turkey, one would have to conclude that official Ankara was behind the attempt on the life of the Pope committed in 1981 by Ali Agca, a member of the Turkish ultra-nationalist terrorist organization Grey Wolves, whose political wing is part of the current government coalition.

I think it is necessary to point out that, for us, the Turkish side's motives for such inappropriate actions are perfectly clear. It is well known that, over the past

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year, the process of achieving international recognition of the Genocide of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire from 1915 to 1923 has appreciably gained momentum. Since it is not in a position to disprove with the help of historical data the irrefutable fact of the Genocide, which led to the systematic annihilation of more than one and a half million Armenians, the Turkish Government has instead unleashed a campaign aimed at discrediting Armenia and the Armenian diaspora. Such actions on the part of Ankara are nothing other than an attempt to revive the medieval practice of blaming for the violence the very victims of the violence, in the hope that the endless repetition of the lie will make it true.

It is not surprising that the target of the Turkish authorities was precisely one of the oldest Armenian parties with a history dating back more than a century: the Armenian Revolutionary Federation, Dashnaktsutyun, which has been an active and consistent campaigner for the recognition of the Genocide of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire from 1915 to 1923. The hatred of the Turkish authorities for the Dashnaktsutyun party goes back to the beginning of the twentieth century, when the party fought actively against the Ottoman policy of State terrorism and genocide pursued against the Armenian people and other nationalities living in the territory of the Ottoman Empire.

After gaining independence in 1991, the Republic of Armenia became a party to the basic international instruments condemning terrorism and has repeatedly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. The official position of Armenia is that terror in no way furthers the re-establishment of historical truth with respect to the Genocide of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire.

I should like to take this opportunity to reaffirm once again Armenia's position, which consists in the total condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

We wish to reiterate, taking full responsibility, that the reference to Armenia in the letter from the Permanent Representative of Turkey circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under the agenda items on international terrorism, and of the Security Council is nothing other than provocation aimed at discrediting the just struggle of the Armenian people for the recognition of the Genocide of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire from 1915 to 1923.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 156 and 164, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Movses **Abelian**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative